THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1.      A method for cropping a computer generated original image on a display, comprising the
5    steps of:

adjusting a user-selected movable boundary on said original image to define a cropped image within said boundary, said boundary defined by two or more points on said original image; and,

distorting said original image in regions surrounding said points, whereby said boundary
10         is accurately positioned for cropping.

2.      The method of claim 1 wherein said step of distorting further includes the steps of:

creating a lens surface for one or more of said regions; and,

transforming said original image by applying a distortion function defining said lens
15         surface to said original image.

3.      The method of claim 2 wherein said step of creating further includes the step of displaying a graphical user interface ("GUI") over one or more of said regions for adjusting said lens surface.

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4.      The method of claim 3 wherein said lens surface includes a focal region and a base region and said GUI includes: a slide bar icon for adjusting a magnification for said lens surface; a slide bar icon for adjusting a degree of scooping for said lens surface; a bounding rectangle icon with at least one handle icon for adjusting a size and a shape for said focal region; a bounding
25    rectangle icon with at least one handle icon for adjusting a size and a shape for said base region; a move icon for adjusting a location for said lens surface on said boundary; a pickup icon for adjusting a location for said base region within said original image; and, a fold icon for adjusting a location for said focal region relative to said base region.

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5.      The method of claim 4 wherein said adjusting is performed by moving a cursor on said display with a pointing device.

6.      The method of claim 5 wherein said cursor is an icon.

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7.      The method of claim 5 wherein said pointing device is a mouse.

8.      The method of claim 1 wherein said movable boundary is a polygon.

10  9.      A method for measuring within a computer generated original image on a display, comprising the steps of:

adjusting a user-selected movable line segment on said original image to define points on said original image for measuring between; and,

distorting said original image in regions surrounding said points, whereby said points are

15      accurately positioned for measuring.

10.     The method of claim 9 wherein said step of distorting further includes the steps of:

creating a lens surface for one or more of said regions; and,

transforming said original image by applying a distortion function defining said lens

20      surface to said original image.

11.     The method of claim 10 wherein said step of creating further includes the step of displaying a graphical user interface ("GUI") over one or more of said regions for adjusting said lens surface.

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12.     The method of claim 11 wherein said lens surface includes a focal region and a base region and said GUI includes: a slide bar icon for adjusting a magnification for said lens surface; a slide bar icon for adjusting a degree of scooping for said lens surface; a bounding rectangle icon with at least one handle icon for adjusting a size and a shape for said focal region; a

30  bounding rectangle icon with at least one handle icon for adjusting a size and a shape for said base region; a move icon for adjusting a location for said lens surface on said boundary; a pickup

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icon for adjusting a location for said base region within said original image; and, a fold icon for adjusting a location for said focal region relative to said base region.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said adjusting is performed by moving a cursor on said display with a pointing device.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said cursor is an icon.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said pointing device is a mouse.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein said line segment is a straight line.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein said original image has one or more layers.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said regions have a predetermined selection of said layers.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein said cropped image has a predetermined selection of said layers.